

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **AUSTIN: BETTER SOLUTION FOUND TO IMPROVE ALEXANDRIA ROADS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Through unprecedented cooperation between state and local officials, the people of Alexandria will see a major thoroughfare improved in a way that will be more convenient to area motorists and save tax dollars, according to State Rep. Terri J. Austin (D-Anderson).

Austin said she was notified by officials with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) that the agency will pursue a plan to repave, rebuild and widen the shoulders of State Road 9 through Alexandria. This plan will take the place of a more extensive reconstruction proposal that Austin said would have created havoc in the community for at least two years.

"The original proposal called for adding a third lane on Indiana 9 through Alexandria, a project that would have started in the 2009 construction season and continued for two years," Austin said. "Once this project was announced, many people in the community were concerned that it would cause extended traffic problems during the length of construction, since the road would have to be either partially or completely closed during much of the time that the work was going on."

Almost immediately, local officials began talking with Austin and representatives of INDOT to see if an alternative could be found.

"People agreed that there was a need to improve State Road 9, since it is one of the major traffic arteries in Alexandria," Austin said. "However, a project of the type originally described by INDOT would have shut down major sections of the road and created all kinds of problems for people driving to work and school."

Through several meetings between interested parties, Austin said a solution was found that would ease the concerns of residents and upgrade the road.

"The new plan will repave the road in some areas, rebuild it in others and widen the shoulders in those sections that will help passing traffic," Austin said. "It accomplishes the same goals as the original project, but does it in a more timely fashion. And these improvements will cost less than the original project, which means people will see added savings."

Austin credited town, county and state officials for their willingness to work together to find a solution. INDOT workers are expected to have a new completion date for the revised project in the next few months.

"We worked as a team, and the end result will be improved roads at a reduced cost," she concluded.

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**This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H36](http://www.IN.gov/H36)**